

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously presented) An apparatus for neutralizing organic alkaline wastewater by producing nitric acid ions by aerobic microorganisms, the apparatus comprising:

an ultrafilter membrane, a vinylidene chloride packing material, a pH meter and air supply means; and

wherein aerobic microorganisms are utilized in neutralizing the organic alkaline wastewater.

20. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the microorganism concentration within the apparatus is 10,000 ppm or higher.

21. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the ultrafilter membrane is a submerged membrane disposed in a water tank.

22. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein a vinylidene chloride packing material and a guide are disposed below the submerged membrane, the vinylidene chloride packing material guide is disposed on both outside extension lines of the submerged membrane and a diffusing pipe is disposed therebelow.

23. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the vinylidene chloride packing material comprises a plurality of ring-shaped structures extending radially.

24. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the apparatus also serves as a biological wastewater treatment apparatus.

25. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein a diffusing pipe capable of automatically adjusting a discharge amount is provided below the submerged membrane.

26. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein a dissolved oxygen meter is provided in the water tank.

27. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein a diffusing pipe separate from a diffusing pipe below the submerged membrane is disposed

below the vinylidene chloride packing material and the amount of air discharged from this separate diffusing pipe is interlocked with the pH meter.

28. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 27, wherein a gas discharged from the separate diffusing pipe is a nitrogen gas.

29. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 27, wherein treatment capacity of the submerged membrane is controlled by the amount of air discharged from the diffusing pipe disposed below the vinylidene chloride packing material.

30-34. (Canceled)